



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Proclaims April 16-22 as Earth Week in Kentucky *Theme is "Playground Earth: Get Outside, Kentucky!"*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 18, 2011) – Declaring that there are few places that compare to Kentucky's display of natural beauty in the springtime, Gov. Steve Beshear today proclaimed April 16-22, 2011, as Earth Week in Kentucky. This year's state theme is "Playground Earth: Get Outside, Kentucky!"

"Research confirms that children who spend time outdoors are healthier and perform better in school," said Gov. Beshear. "The Commonwealth is blessed with natural settings that encourage exploration and provide opportunities for families to connect with nature and to get outside. I encourage Kentucky families to explore the outdoors, develop an appreciation for our state's natural resources and become stewards of our environment."

In an effort to get families outdoors, the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) is sponsoring its first environmental photography contest for middle school students in grades 6-8. "Cabinet staff is excited to sponsor this photo contest. It's a terrific reason to get the family together, find an outdoor adventure and put it to memory by taking lots of photographs," said EEC Secretary Len Peters.

Peters said photography is a great way to document how your family is protecting the planet. "We'd like to see all kinds of nature pictures but we are also interested in photographs of your family recycling, or planting a tree, picking up litter, or participating in an environmental event."

The "Capture the Earth" photo contest is open to all Kentucky middle school students. Judges will look for originality and creativity, photo composition, and how well the photo represents the Earth Day theme of "Playground Earth: Get Outside, Kentucky!"

EEC will begin accepting entries on Earth Day, April 22, 2011. The deadline for entering photos is 4:30 p.m., on Monday, May 9, 2011. The winner will receive two nights' lodging at any Kentucky State Resort Park with his or her family. Middle school students may e-mail one photograph as an attachment to Kidsphotocontest@ky.gov. Official contest rules are available at <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>.

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